

### Patent Claims

1. Method for identification of a user, especially in the case of devices  
5 of process automation technology, comprising the steps of:
  - a) Requesting at least one person-specific feature of the user;
  - b) registering the person-specific feature with a sensor;
  - c) comparing the registered, person-specific feature with stored  
features;
  - 10 d) granting access to the user upon matching of the registered,  
person-specific feature with one of the stored features.
2. Method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the person-  
specific feature is a fingerprint.  
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3. Method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the person-  
specific feature is an iris image.
4. Method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in  
20 that the person-specific feature is randomly selected.
5. Method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in  
that a plurality of person-specific features are requested.
- 25 6. Method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in  
that the stored, person-specific features are stored in a data memory of  
the device.

7. Method as claimed in one of the preceding claims 1-5, characterized in that the stored, person-specific features are stored in a central memory, to which the device is connected via a data bus.
- 5 8. Apparatus for performing the method as claimed in one of the claims 1-7.
9. Apparatus for the identification of a user in the case of devices of process automation technology, characterized in that a registration unit is  
10 provided at the device, which reads user-specific data from a portable unit.
10. Apparatus as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the portable unit is an electronic key.